

Response/Remarks

In response to the restriction requirement contained in the Office Action mailed January 24, 2008, applicant hereby elects, with traverse, Group I, claims 1-9, for examination. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner also examine Group II, claims 10-17, as set forth below.

Applicants submit that the examination of claims of Groups I and II in a single application is permitted by MPEP §803, unless an undue searching burden would be placed upon the PTO in conducting a patentability search with respect to all of these claims. Notwithstanding the Examiner's assertion of differing classifications, it is submitted that any prior art search set up for Group I should be coextensive with any search for Group II.

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the requirement for restriction and examine claims 1-17 to be prosecuted in the same application, as directed by MPEP §803. Notwithstanding the above arguments and the request for reconsideration, in the event the Examiner's restriction requirement is made final, Applicants hereby elect to prosecute the claims of Group I (claims 1-9) holding claims 10-17 (Group II) in abeyance under the provisions of 37 CFR § 1.142(b) until final disposition of the elected claims.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 50-2478 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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